

Serial No. 10/824,500

Attorney Docket No. 01-619

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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A navigation device for a vehicle, comprising:

a storing unit configured to store personal positional information associated with navigating the vehicle to a position of personal significance; and

a privacy switch configured to switch to a privacy mode from an unrestricted use mode based on an unauthenticated switch operation to thereby deactivate the unrestricted use mode and activate the privacy mode while locking further activation of the unrestricted use mode that is unauthenticated,

wherein:

when the privacy mode is activated, any access to the personal positional information is prohibited regardless of authentication or lack of authentication, until the unrestricted use mode is activated, and

when the unrestricted use mode is activated, access to the personal positional information is permitted ~~without~~ regardless of authentication or lack of authentication, until the privacy mode is activated.

34. (Previously presented) The navigation device of claim 33, further comprising:

a use mode unlock controlling unit configured to unlock the further activation of the unrestricted use mode to thereby deactivate the privacy mode and activate the unrestricted use mode if (i) a predetermined unlock condition is satisfied and (ii) the privacy switch is switched from the privacy mode to the unrestricted use mode.

35. (Previously presented) The navigation device of claim 34, wherein:

Serial No. 10/824,500

Attorney Docket No. 01-619

the predetermined unlock condition includes a successful authentication obtained during an authentication process that is activated when the privacy switch is switched from the privacy mode to the unrestricted use mode.

36. (Previously presented) The navigation device of claim 33, wherein the privacy switch is a hardware switch.

37. (Previously presented) The navigation device of claim 33, wherein the privacy switch has a switch button, which is manually operated.

38. (Previously presented) The navigation device of Claim 33, wherein:
the privacy switch includes a key cylinder of the vehicle; and
the switching to the privacy mode from the unrestricted use mode by the privacy switch includes inserting a spare key into the key cylinder.

39. (Previously presented) The navigation device of Claim 33, wherein the position of personal significance includes a private home.

40. (Previously presented) The navigation device of Claim 33, wherein the position of personal significance includes a memory point stored in the storing unit by a person.

41. (Currently amended) The navigation device of Claim 33, wherein when the privacy mode is activated, the vehicle, including the navigation device, is allowed to be operated without any authentication.

42. (Previously presented) The navigation device of Claim 33, further comprising:
a map data storing unit for storing map data including facility positional information relating to positions of facilities on a map;
a position detector for detecting a present position of the vehicle; and

Serial No. 10/824,500

Attorney Docket No. 01-619

a privacy mode controlling unit configured to cause the privacy switch to switch to the privacy mode from the unrestricted use mode regardless of the unauthenticated switch operation to thereby deactivate the unrestricted use mode and activate the privacy mode if the detected present position is a position of a predetermined facility.

43. (Previously presented) The navigation device of Claim 42, wherein the predetermined facility includes a valet parking lot.

44. (Currently amended) An in-vehicle controller comprising:

a storing unit configured to store information of personal significance; and

a privacy switch configured to switch to a privacy mode from a unrestricted use mode based on an unauthenticated switch operation, wherein:

when the privacy mode is activated, any access to the information of personal significance is prohibited regardless of authentication or lack of authentication, until the unrestricted use mode is activated; and

when the unrestricted use mode is activated, access to the information of personal significance is permitted without regardless of authentication or lack of authentication, until the privacy mode is activated.

45. (Previously presented) The in-vehicle controller of claim 44, further comprising:

a use mode unlock controlling unit configured to deactivate the privacy mode and activate the unrestricted use mode if (i) a predetermined unlock condition is satisfied and (ii) the privacy switch is switched from the privacy mode to the unrestricted use mode.

46. (Previously presented) The in-vehicle controller of claim 44, further comprising:

a use mode controlling unit configured to deactivate the privacy mode and activate the

Serial No. 10/824,500

Attorney Docket No. 01-619

unrestricted use mode if an authentication condition is satisfied during an authentication process that is activated when the privacy switch is switched from the privacy mode to the unrestricted use mode.

47. (Currently amended) A method for prohibiting access to information of personal significance provided in a vehicle, the method comprising:

permitting access to the information of personal significance ~~without~~ regardless of authentication or lack of authentication, until the privacy mode is activated when an unrestricted use mode is activated;

activating a privacy mode and deactivating the unrestricted use mode by switching from the unrestricted use mode to the privacy mode based on an unauthenticated switch operation; and

prohibiting any access to the information of personal significance regardless of authentication or lack of authentication, until the unrestricted use mode is activated when the privacy mode is activated.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

locking a further activation of the unrestricted use mode when switching from the unrestricted use mode to the privacy mode; and

unlocking the further activation of the unrestricted use mode to thereby deactivate the privacy mode and activate the unrestricted use mode if (i) a predetermined unlock condition is satisfied and (ii) the privacy mode is switched to the unrestricted use mode.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

locking a further activation of the unrestricted use mode when switching from the unrestricted use mode to the privacy mode; and

Serial No. 10/824,500

Attorney Docket No. 01-619

unlocking the further activation of the unrestricted use mode to thereby to deactivate the privacy mode and activate the unrestricted use mode if an authentication condition is satisfied during an authentication process that is activated when the privacy mode is switched to the unrestricted use mode.

50. (New) The navigation device of claim 33, further comprising:

a display device configured to display buttons to designate a method for designating a destination, the buttons including a memory-point button for designating a memory point and a home button for designating a home,

wherein:

when the privacy mode is activated, the memory-point button and the home button are configured to be inoperative while being toned down; and

when the unrestricted use mode is activated, the memory-point button and the home button are configured to be displayed and operative in similarity with other buttons included in the buttons.

51. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

displaying buttons to designate a method for designating a destination, the buttons including a memory-point button for designating a memory point and a home button for designating a home,

Serial No. 10/824,500

Attorney Docket No. 01-619

causing, when the privacy mode is activated, the memory-point button and the home button to be inoperative while being toned down; and

causing, when the unrestricted use mode is activated, the memory-point button and the home button to be displayed and operative in similarity with other buttons included in the buttons.

52. (New) The navigation device of claim 33, wherein the privacy switch is further configured to switch to the unrestricted use mode from the privacy mode based on a switch operation only when the switch operation is thereafter authenticated.